

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11238

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: GOETZ AFFAIR

1. THE FIRST DECISION OF MINISTER PRESIDENT KUEHN OF NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA TO BACK HIS JUSTICE MINISTER, POSSER, IN THE ASSIGNMENT OF DKP MEMBER GOETZ AS A JUDGE (SEE DUSSELDORF'S A-88 OF JULY 30) AND THE SUBSEQUENT DECISION OF THE KUEHN GOVERNMENT, AN SPD-FDP COALITION, TO POSTPONE A DEFINITIVE DECISION HAS GROWN INTO A CONTROVERSY OF POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE BEYOND NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA.

2. THE CRITICISM OF KUEHN WITHIN THE SPD ACROSS GERMANY AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT THE FDP TOO IS NOT OF ONE MIND ON THE QUESTION OF THE RIGHTS OF RADICALS TO PUBLIC OFFICE HAVE FOCUSED ATTENTION AGAIN ON THE PROBLEM BETWEEN AND WITHIN THE SPD AND ITS FEDERAL COALITION PARTNER, THE FDP. A MEETING OF LAENDER CHIEFS WILL
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DISCUSS THE MATTER IN SEPTEMBER, BUT IT IS NOT AT ALL

CERTAIN THEY WILL DEFINITELY RESOLVE THE ISSUE. THE DECISION THEY REACHED ON RADICALS IN THE CIVIL SERVICES TWO YEARS AGO WAS IMPRECISE AND HAS BEEN UNDER CONSTANT ATTACK EVER SINCE, THOUGH IT WOULD SEEM TO SUPPORT THE DECISION NOT TO APPOINT GOETZ.

3. BRANDT HAS DEFENDED KUEHN WITHOUT COMMENTING ON THE ISSUE ITSELF, THOUGH THE CDU IS PRESSING HIM TO TAKE A STAND, ANY STAND, BECAUSE THE ISSUE IS SO CONTROVERSIAL HE WOULD BE DAMNED EITHER WAY. IF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL COURT WERE ASKED TO RULE ON THE DKP'S CONSTITUTIONALITY AND DECIDED ON ITS ABOLITION, AS THE KPD WAS ABOLISHED IN 1956, THAT WOULD SOLVE THE MATTER, BUT THE GOVERNMENT IS ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO PURSUE THAT COURSE.

4. COMMENT: NO MATTER HOW THE GOETZ AFFAIR IS ULTIMATELY RESOLVED, IT IS A CLEAR INSTANCE OF ONE OF THE CONTINUING MAJOR CONTROVERSIES WITHIN THE SPD AND BETWEEN IT AND THE FDP. AS THE VOICES OF THE RADICAL LEFT GROW STRONGER IN THE SPD, AS IT FOLLOWS WEHNER'S TACTIC OF EMBRACING IN ORDER TO CONTROL, A SPLIT WITHIN THE SPD BECOMES MORE THINKABLE AS DOES A CDU/FDP COALITION. BUT THE GROWTH IS SLOW AND THE SHORT-RUN INTER-DEPENDENCE OF THE SPD AND THE FDP IS CONSIDERABLE. OUR VIEW REMAINS, THEREFORE, THAT THE PERIOD OF MAXIMUM DANGER TO THE SPD WILL NOT OCCUR BEFORE THE 1976 ELECTION, BUT SHOULD THE NRW COALITION BREAK APART, IT COULD OCCUR SOONER. AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF IS REPORTING SEPARATELY ON THIS POSSIBILITY. HILLENBRAND

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